

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

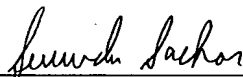
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to correct minor informalities in the specification and claims. The changes made to the specification and claims are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SNS/rac

I:\ATTY\SNS\273567US-PR.DOC

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423